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NSC BRIEFING

27 April 1960

BACKGROUND: TURKEY

I. Political Parties:

Democratic Party, under President Celal Bayar and Premier Adnan Menderes, has ruled Turkey since 1950, having won elections of 1950, 1954 and 1957. Democratic Party formed in 1946 by group of defectors from Republican Peoples Party, the party of Ataturk which had maintained [REDACTED] rule from the founding of the republic in 1923 to the end of World War II. Both parties support continued Turkish ties with NATO and CENTO and close relations with US.

II. Party Strength in Grand National Assembly:

Democratic Party	409
Republican Peoples Party	173
Minor parties and vacancies	28
Total	610

III. Communism:

Communist and pro-Communist elements are of little significance. Communist party membership believed limited to a few hundred.

IV. Military Strength:

Army	352,000
Gendarmerie	60,000
Navy	30,974
Air Force	31,135
Total	474,109

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